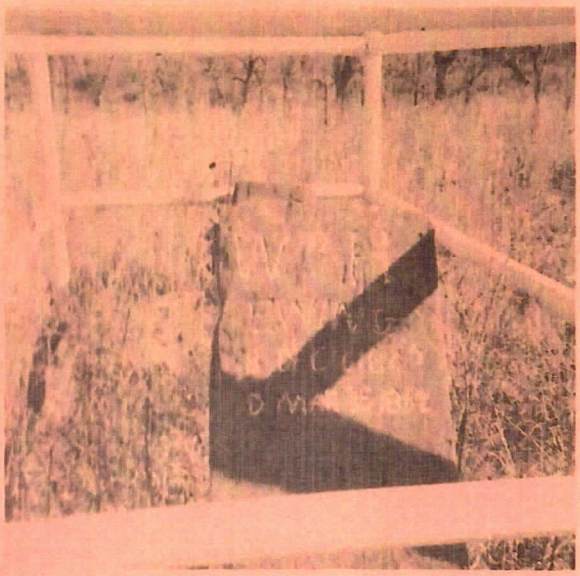
# IN THE BEGINNING



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Published Quarterly
Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
Vol. 5 - No. 18

# IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 5 - No. 18 April - 1972

Lester A. Harding - Editor

EDITOR'S NOTES –

We have had fair luck with our subscribers by marking a red square at the beginning of this column. Many have responded by paying up, but as this goes to the printer there are quite a few that are behind on subscription. We know that most of these will pay up, but we always lose some by this method. The January, 1972, issue No. 17 has sold the most copies of any number that we have put out.

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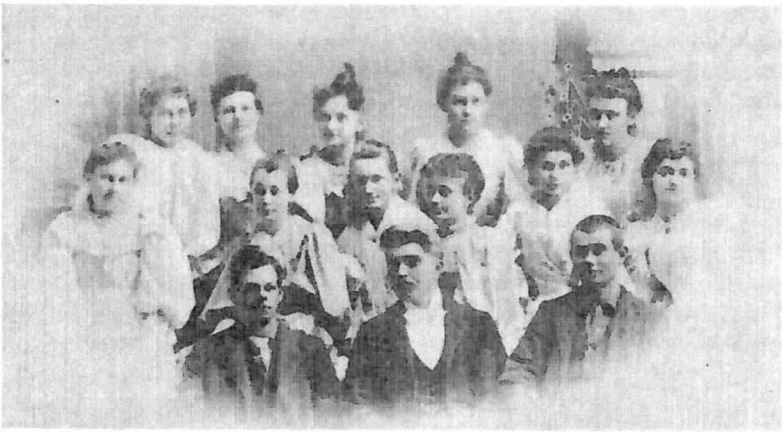
YATES CENTER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASSES OF 1890-91-92-94. The class of 1893 is on page 10.



In this picture taken February 1, 1895, are the following: Top left to right: Abbie Green, Minnie Holloway, Elma Holloway, Olive Wilder, Myrtle Chellis-Long; Center row: Cora Wilder, Jessie Slavens, Rose Gallup-Gardner, Elizabeth Spencer, Ruby Green-Dexter, Ada Shenk; Bottom row: Charles Stitcher, Arthur Knight and Ralph Rankin.

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We are urging our subscribers to please renew their subscription to IN THE BEGINNING. This is a non-profit organization, but we do need to pay expense.

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IN THE BEGINNING
Published Quarterly By
Woodson County Historical Society
$2.00 per year Yates Center, Kansas 50 cents a copy

WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Organized March, 1965

The 7th annual meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society was held January 25, 1972, for the regular dinner meeting at Sue's Cafe in Yates Center, with the second largest group present since the Society's Organization. There were 69 present for the dinner and to enjoy the colored slide pictures and the comments of Mr. and Mrs. John Glades as they told of their trip behind the Iron Curtain of Russia this past year.

* * * * *

With more improvements being made and more accessions being added we are looking for a successful year of 1972, for the Museum. We also have added quite a few members to the Historical Society, but of course we always lose a few.

* * * * *

One of the many displays of the Museum is the "Doctor's Office" that has the doctor's chair, surgical cases with many of the instruments and other tools from the office of the late Dr. Harry A. West and some of his father, Dr. H.W. West.

* * * * *

IN MEMORIUM

Mrs. Charles (Dollie) Daniel 80 November 24, 1971

Mrs. Daniel was one of the Charter Members of the Woodson County Historical Society. She was one of the first six Directors when the Society was organized and still held that office. She was an active member as long as her health permitted.

* * * * *

Mrs. Cecil (Sofia) Tannahill 70 December 8, 1971

Mrs. Tannahill was also a Charter Member of this Society and was a regular attendent to all of the the meetings.

* * * * *

Jonas C. Street 80 January 4, 1972

The names of all of the Charter Members of the Woodson County Historical Society are written on their certificates in the fine handwriting of J.C. Street. For this good deed he was given an Honorary Membership into this Society.

Join and Support the
Woodson County Historical Society

Membership Dues

Life Membership - $25.00 Regular Membership - $2.00 per year

THE WM. B. STINES FAMILY –

The fartherest west of the early day settlers homesteads on Turkey Creek was that of William B. Stines. As a young man of 23 years he came to Coffey County, Kansas, in 1858. The following year, 1859, he came to Woodson County. He had started teaching school at the age of 19, and continued this teaching in the Woodson County schools.

In the fall of 1860 he pre-empted 160 acres along upper Turkey Creek that in later years was known as the Holmquest farm. About that time also, October 4, 1860 he was married to Miss Louisa Morgan, who had arrived in Woodson County that proceeding spring with her sister and family, Benjamin and Elgiva Miller. This was one of the first wedding along the upper part of the Turkey Creek settlement.

Wm. B. Stines was a native of Mercer Co. New Jersey, being born there in 1835. He had taught school in Indiana and Illinois before coming to Kansas. Louisa Morgan was a native of Kentucky, and was 19 years of age when coming to Kansas by covered wagon with the Benj. Miller family in 1860.

While Turkey Creek ran through the north part of the quarter section homesteaded by Stines he built his log cabin on a higher knoll about a quarter mile south of the creek. While doing some farming, Stines continued teaching school, and soon entered into the political field of Woodson County.

In the general election of November, 1864, W.B. Stines was elected as Superintendent of Public Instruction of Woodson County. Under a new ruling it was necessary to number the schools of the county consecutively in the county; up until that time the schools had been numbered by townships. Stines gave District No. 1 and District No. 2 schools in Liberty township, his home township, with Dist. No. 2 being his home school. This caused quite a furor over the county. Neosho Falls thought it should be Dist. No. 1. Another county superintendent was elected at the next election. However this same election, 1865, Stines was elected as County Surveyor.

Also this same year, 1865, he took up the study of law, reading under the direction of Alexander Stewart of LeRoy, and was admitted to the bar before Judge Watson at Neosho Falls. His first case was with Judge Charles B. Graves a former neighbor in a case at Neosho Falls. It was also the first case for Graves. In the November, 1867 election, W.B. Stines was elected to both offices of County Suveyor and County Attorney. He served as a surveyor for several years later.

W. B. Stines and his brother-in-law Benj. Miller built the first school house at Dist. No. 2, on land belonging to Miller.

Wm. B. Stines and wife Louisa were the parents of three children; Mary, Flora B. and Grant. Mrs. Louisa Stines passed away in 1870, and was one of the first if not the first to be buried in the Askren Cemetery.

In 1869, Benjamin Miller left his wife Elgiva. Loading his children in the wagon he left the country and was not heard from for several years. The two oldest children going with Miller were, Benjamin, age 9 and James, age 7. They eventually settled in Texas.

On May 28, 1871, Wm. B. Stines and Elgiva Miller were married. The occasion taking place in the Askren log Schoolhouse on the land belonging to Elgiva Miller.

**Wm. B. Stines and wife Louisa**

* * * * *

Their home was at the Benj. Miller homestead, a half mile north and a half west from the present Turkey Creek Church. They had one daughter, Ethelyn. Not many years later Elgiva Stines died and was also buried in the Askren Cemetery.

In May, 1882, W.B. Stines was again married. This time to Miss Laura Farnam, whose parents lived in the Keck vicinity. To them were born two daughters, Alemda and Edna.

We mentioned the children of W.B. and Louisa Stines as Mary, Flora B., and Grant. Mary was married to Warren Miller.

Flora B. was married to Jesse Chambers. Their children were; Earl, who married Hazel Drake; Ray, who married Jennie Walker; Arthur, who married Lola Culver; Minnie who married John Voile; Maude, who married Ben Billings; Lee, who married Iva Ellison; Glenn, who married Georgia Senate; Leslie C., who married Thelma Ferree.

Ethelyn Stines was married to James G. Ward. Their children were: Elsie, who married Irvin Elliot; Charles, Mildred (Witt); Dorothy (Mrs. Boyles),

and Donald, who is now the sheriff of Woodson County. He married Jean Pendlay.

Grant Stines was married to Maude Ozburn. They had three sons, Harry, Ira and George.

Sometime after his third marriage, Mr. Stines sold out the homestead on Turkey Creek and moved to Yates Center. While he was born in New Jersey, as a small boy with his parents they crossed the Allegany Mountains in a wagon and went on to Darke Co., Ohio, before he started moving on west. He was evidently a cousin of Mrs. Joseph Miller, and his original homestead joined on the west of the Miller claim on Turkey Creek.

Wm. B. Staines was a very active man in his day-pioneer rural school teacher, quite active in politics, and in religious activities around the Keck and Finney M.E. Churches.

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## AN EARLY DAY CATTLE AND SHEEP CAMP—TOEDMAN'S

"When we herded cattle and sheep out at the head of Hyland Branch that was really herding." This is what the late Louis Toedman told the writer several years ago. "For the range was wide open and no fence for miles."

The Toedman twin brothers, Louis and Wesley had their first taste of this range herding when they were 15 years old. The boys made their home with an uncle August Toedman an early day settler on Owl Creek, across the road from where the Durand depot now is. About the year 1888 and until 1897, a herd of 450 cattle and a flock of 1500 sheep were driven from the Toedman farm where they would be wintered, about 12-13 miles to the west and north of Yates Center to the open range. Hyland Branch starts at the head of these hills running west to Dry Creek. Near the head of Hyland Branch was a large spring and it was here that the Toedman brothers had their camp. They lived in a small shack on four wheels that could be moved.

The sheep were all herded to the east of the camp and brought into corral's at night. The cattle grazed to the west of the camp and were herded to keep them from mixing with other herds on that range. Their range went south down Brazil Creek.

The Kessner brothers, Bill, Frank and John of Missouri. The name Kessner was spelled Kisner in the last issue in the story about Jim Dye. The Kessner's had their headquarters at the old Holloway place, which was a mile west of the present Kimbell Ranch. Their range joined on the north of the Toedmans. To the south along Brazil Creek a fellow named Otey Barnard of Texas herded some Mexican cattle. His sister Pearl also helped some with the herding. Other herders and cowboys on the range during those years were: Otis Sage, Bert Maclaskey, Ed Dent, Boyd Henry, Lou Bales and Jim Dye.

Charles Redin lived on what was known for many years as the Henry Burns farm, a half mile south and a half west of the Kimbell Ranch. The Toedman brothers and Redin had alot of sport together in breaking broncoes. One of the things the Toedman brothers had to put up with among the cattle herders was their hatred for sheep on the range. On one occasion they found some kindling in the sheep corral that someone had placed there but it did not burn.

Coyotes got into the sheep corral one night causing the sheep to break out and scatter. By the time the sheep were rounded up the next morning eleven had been killed.

The Toedman twin brothers, Wesley and Louis, were the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Antone Toedman. They were born October 28, 1873, in a log cabin along Owl Creek two miles north of Yates Center, although at that time there was no Yates Center. When the boys were two years old a part of the cabin caught fire. The mother was alone with the boys. Putting the boys in a little pen away from the house so that they would not wander away or go back to the cabin the mother ran over a hill to the northwest to the August Koenig home (now the E.J. Gordon home). While she was gone for help a man happened to be riding nearby on horseback, saw the fire and was able to put it out, before the mother returned with help.

The exertion and the effects of the summer heat were too much for the mother who died from the effects of it, leaving the father and the twin boys. The boys were taken to the home of their uncle, Mr. and Mrs. August Toedman, where they lived until they grew up.

These twins married sisters. Louis married Annie Fricke. They raised a foster son, Glenn Sullinger.

Wesley was married to Lena Fricke in 1901. They had one son, Neil. All of their married life was spent on different farms over the county. After 59 years of married life Mrs. Toedman passed away in 1960. After her passing Wesley moved to the Hill Crest Nursing Home. On October 28, 1971, Mr. Toedman celebrated his 98th birthday.

Neil Toedman married Marjorie Reed. They had one son Gordon Toedman.

* * * * *

NEOSHO FALLS ADVERTISER – NOV. 9, 1871

Dr. Driscoll, with a number of others, started on a buffalo hunt last week. If the old saying that, 'doctors kill more than they cure', be true then we tremble for the poor buffalos.

A gypsy man and two women have been camped near the Spring Creek Bridge for several days. They have passed themselves among many persons as Cherokee Indians. The women claiming to be skillful, as Indian doctor's and we understand have humbugged a number of persons into believing them as such. Hearing the man talk German, confirmed us in our first impression, which was that they were gypsies.

(While we did not find the editors name in the paper, the Neosho Falls Advertiser was in its second year, and boasted of a circulation of 800 copies).

* * * *

THE SCATTER CREEK VALLEY, cont.–

The large two-story house built on the rocky hill in southeast Perry township almost due west of Humboldt was quite a show place in its day. From its position on the Quackenbos Hill there was a commanding view in almost every direction. However, the purpose for which it was built by Prof. George Quackenbos, in the early 1870's, did not prove out very satisfactory. Prof. Quackenbos was an outstanding schoolmaster of the old school and had originated the idea of a Boys School, especially for the boys from the Eastern States, whose wealthy parents would send the boys out to the "Wild and Wooly West" for a change of environment, and get them away from the temptations of that time. It was known as the Humboldt Academy for Boys.

The friendly people of the thriving town of Humboldt evidently had many kinds of entertainment for these teenage boys from back east. It seems that the boys like to sneak out of the large house after bedtime hours and make the 12-mile round trip to Humboldt. It is possible there were never more than twenty boys attended this school. After about a years trial Prof. Quackenbos saw his good intentioned plans failing and the school for boys was closed down.

It seems that later the building was used as a Catholic seminary for girls, but we have no information regarding this.

For awhile the large house on the hill was used as a stage coach stop in the 1870's. There were large double doors on the east side that were used to admit the stage coaches in that room. This stage coach stop was used as the coaches would leave the trail going from Iola to Buffalo, cross Scatter Creek and up the steep hill to the large house. The stage line then went south into Wilson County to the stage station called Rest.

A large lean-to room was built on the east side of the house and was the room mentioned above. At one time hanging on one of the walls of this room was an old metal sign with the words "Humboldt Academy". This sign is now on display at the Allen County Historical Society room in the Allen County Courthouse at Iola.

There are so many tales told concerning the old house on Quackenbos Hill and it would be rather difficult to separate fact from fiction. The house had been well planned with a long porch on two sides. There was an upper veranda over each porch with entrance doors from the upstairs, with a front and back stairways. The upper veranda made a good lookout place for later tenants. The story is told that sometime later the tenants at the old academy were the makers of counterfeit money. Directly below the old house was a celler or cave. It was in this celler that the counterfeiters had their money making machine.

It is not certain how long the counterfeiters were here as they were raided by detectives from the Treasury Department.

Other tenants in the old house during prohibition days were some moonshiners who had a still concealed in the old house. This still was evidently very well hidden as the sheriff and prohibition officers made different raids at the house the still was not found.

The story is also told that the Younger Brothers, who were a part of the Jesse James Gang once herded cattle over these hills and used the old Quackenbos house as their headquarters. As the story was told a group of this gang were sitting their horses on top of the hill and looking to the northwest across Scatter Creek valley and across the prairie to beyond toward Owl Creek. Not a tree in sight over the gentle rolling terrain, sloping to the south and east and covered with rich, luscious blue stem grass. Cole Younger, one of the most famous or rather in famous of the old out-laws, turned to his companions and said, "Boys, that country there will someday be the Garden of Eden!"

The story is also told that the Younger Brothers, Cole, Jim and Bob wintered cattle one winter on the middle branch of Owl Creek. (Where Clayton Peck lives).

In March, 1868, Cole and Jim Younger, Jesse and Frank James were accused of robbing a bank at Russellville, Kentucky. Cole Younger denied this. In a letter that appeared in the Pleasant Hill, Mo., Review, November 26, 1874, and later re-printed in the book, "The Border Outlaws", published in 1881, Younger tells of his whereabouts. "At the time of the Russellville, Ky., bank robbery I was gathering cattle in Ellis Co., Texas. Cattle that I bought from Pleas Taylor. I brought the cattle to Kansas that fall and remained in St. Clair Co., Mo. About the first of May I went to Kansas where our cattle were in Woodson County at Col. Ridges".

We have never been able to ascertain who Col. Ridge was or where he lived but presumed it to be in the south east part of the county. As this was in 1868 it was before the large house was built on the hill, but they

were here in later years. Some of the loot obtained in bank robberies by the James and Younger brothers is supposed to be hidden somewhere on the Quackenbos Hill.

After the old house was torn down in 1945 another house was moved in and put over the old basement. In later years people have used metal detectors and dug up the entire basement, looking for this loot. It has been told that a tunnel was at one time dug from the basement and coming out down the hill.

Wallace Zeigler and wife, Teresa lived on top of this hill about 200 yards west of where the old academy was located. Both Mr. and Mrs. Zeigler have lived in that vicinity practically all of their lives. They have lived many years on the Quackenbos Hill and many of the tales of the old house and hill were re-counted by Mr. Zeigler. Both Wallace and Teresa Zeigler are members of the Woodson County Historical Society. Mr. Zeigler is 92 years old. He has stopped "fortune" hunters from digging in the old basement, although he showed the writer where he thought the old tunnel went out.

We would like to go back to the first man mentioned in the story of the Scatter Creek Valley; Ira Nourse.

Their cabin was built close to the east bank of Scatter Creek in the southeast corner of section 22, Twp. 26, Range 17, along the Woodson–Allen County Line. Their children were Hiram, Asa and Clara.
Asa Nourse was married to Iva Hayes. They lived most of their married life on the Nourse homestead. They had one daughter Ava. Ava was married to Lester Erickson.

Floyd Ladd now lives on the old Nourse homestead.

* * * * *

1893 graduating class of the Yates Center High School. In the center of the picture is Miss Elizabeth "Lizzie" Stephenson, principal. Girls are Cora Danhiser, Myrtle Chellis-Long, Lizzie Bacon-Scarlett—Boys are: Zenas Davidson, Brooks Atchinson. Myrtle Chellis-Long at age 92, is the only one of this class and the ones in front of the book that are living.

* * * * *

THE DR. HENRY W. WEST FAMILY

Sometime in December, 1880, a young man arrived in Yates Center. He had just graduated from the Louisville, Ky. Medical College, and believing that to better the chances to follow his profession in a field not over crowded he would come west. Henry W. West was born in Lancaster, Kentucky, August 27, 1856. His parents were Tyra H. and Elizabeth (Beaument) West, who were also native Kentuckians. The father was a farmer by occupation in his native state.

Henry W. West was reared in Kentucky and attended the common schools and entered the Medical College in 1878. He taught school to make money to attend the college.

Dr. J.W. Turner was evidently an old friend of the West family in Kentucky. Dr. Turner had came to Kansas in 1872 and homesteaded a farm northeast of Yates Center. As young Henry West came to Kansas in December, 1880, he came with a load of cattle and horses for Dr. Turner.

After arriving here, he established as a general practioner, and practiced for awhile as a protege of Dr. Turner. Dr. West was listed among the business and professional men of Yates Center in the Business Directory of Kansas of 1882-83. In 1886 the office of Dr. West was on the east side of the square, and moved to different locations before he purchased a one story frame building in about 1895. This frame building had first been built on the corner where the State Exchange Bank is now located, and housed the Woodson County Bank, the first in the city. It was moved a half block south when the bank decided to build a new native stone building.

After the bank moved into the new stone building in 1887, a photographer named Shirley moved into the frame building. Shirley was one of the first if not the first to open up a "photograph gallery" in Yates Center. As Shirley moved out of the building a millinery shop moved in, before Dr. West bought it.

Around 1890, another Kentuckian, a Dr. Ernest W. Harradon, came to town and for two years was a partner of Dr. West. For two years they practiced medicine together under the heading of "West and Harradon , Physcians and surgeons."

In 1883, Henry W. West was married to Mrs. Mary E. Schuler, of Yates Center. At the time of their marriage she had a son, Ernest Schuler. Mary Schuler West was a very talented woman, having attended a finishing school in art and music. Their children were Louise Elizabeth better known to most as Bessie, who taught in the public schools of the county; Coralee, who majored in Art and Music, at the Christian College at Columbia, Mo., and taught music; Harry A. West, whose schooling was in preparation for the medical profession.

For many years the home of the Dr. H.W. West family was in a commodious two story house at 409 N. Main, Yates Center. The Dr. Harradon mentioned lived just across the alley to the street to the west of the Presbyterian Church. While they lived here a son, Ralph A. Harradon, was born to the Dr. Harradons. He observed his 80th birthday on January 20, this year at Nashville, Tenn.

Henry W. West was a doctor of the "old school". His travel to see his patients in town and over the county was by various modes of travel—by horseback, on which he would carry his gun across the saddle and would bring back fresh game for the table. Other times by horses and buggy, and was truly one the old "Horse and Buggy Doctors", until about 1907 when he purchased a White Steamer automobile. The door was in the back where a large tank for water and a small kerosene engine was located. The engine

and water were used for making steam to run the auto with. Trips for the old steamer were of short duration as the steam would have to be generated. The steamer would hold four or five people.

After 51 years of active practice and about 50 years in the same building Dr. West retired in 1941. His son Harry A. West came back to Yates Center and practiced with his father for several years. Dr. Harry West moved into the re-modeled filling station across the street in 1945, and continued in medical practice, until his death.

**Dr. and Mrs. Henry W. West**

Bessie West was married to Chas. D. Robbins. A daughter Genevive, married Wayne Jaynes.

Coralee married Milo Hakes. They had a daughter Mary Beth who married Orvin Wilhite.

Harry A. was married to Aletta Culbreath, they had two children, Howard, and Marjorie (Mrs. Richard McCormick).

NORTH OWL CREEK–

The Owl Creek we mention here is that part of two or more branches of the main Owl Creek, north and west of Yates Center. A part of this story will be on the main Owl or as it is sometimes called, West Owl Creek. A part of this story was told to us several years ago by the late Clarance Cook, who lived his entire life of over 80 years in this locality.

The year 1857 brought a good many courageous and adventurous people into Woodson County, some looking for the free land to build a home upon, while others were more or less just scouting the new frontier. The Allens and Cooks from over in Missouri evidently came that year, but did not settle down, and returned to their homes in Missouri. Those were trying years in Kansas with the slavery question and border warfare keeping the country unsettled.

According to the First Biennial Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture of 1878, the first settlers in Liberty township were Thomas Sears and Osburn Ewing. The two families staked their claims and built their cabins along a branch running north from the main North Owl Creek. This would be four miles north and three quarter mile west of Yates Center. Sears on the south side of the road and Ewing on the north.

Thomas Sears was a native of Warren Co., Kentucky, moving from there to Illinois. From there he was a member of the Volunteers in the Blackhawk War. In 1931 he was married to Elizabeth Jenet. Nine children were born to them, but they only raised five. They moved from Illinois to different parts of Missouri. During the winter of 1854, Sears fed cattle in the Kaw River bottom at Kansas City about where the present stockyards are. In 1855 the family moved to Mound City, where Sears built the first log store house in that section.

Two years later in the spring of 1857, a covered wagon caravan came to a stop and a log cabin was built along the branch of Owl Creek. Coming with Thomas and Elizabeth Sears were three sons, William, 20; James, 18; and Dallas, 14. Three years were later Sears established a post office in in his home, which he called Mt. Airy. This was the third post office in Woodson Co.

William Sears was married to Miss Mary Ewing in 1862. Soon after this the Thomas Sears family left this vicinity and moved to Greenwood County about six miles west of Toronto. William took over the Mt. Airy post office for awhile and then he with his family moved to near his father in Greenwood Co.

James Sears enlisted in Co. F at Neosho Falls in July, 1863. He died in the army in August, 1864, less than a year later. He was 21. Cynthia F. Sears a daughter of Thomas Sears, married John Estep, and after the death of her husband lived in Toronto near her father.

Osburn Ewing and his wife Permelia were natives of Illinois, and with their children, Mary, William, Barbara, John, Hannah and another Mary the same age of Hannah. The older Mary married Wm. Sears. In 1862 at the age of 16 years, William Ewing died and was buried on the prairie not far from the branch of Owl Creek about a quarter mile north of the Ewing home. The Ewings evidently left soon after this.

The grave of William Ewing, is on land now owned by E.J. Gordon and son Ron Gordon, an after 110 years of being an uncared for pioneer grave it now has a white-painted pipe fence protecting it. However, the native sandstone marker is still intact.

* * * * * *

In the spring of 1868, Lewis Mitchell and family movedto one of the branches of North Owl Creek. Their log cabin was along the creek in the northwest part of the southeast quarter of section 4-25-15, about two miles northwest of Yates Center. Mitchell and wife Rebecca had first settled in the Verdigris valley just to the south of Toronto, that is now under water. In May, 1869 'Becky Mitchell died at the birth of her twin babies. The mother and babies were all buried together in one grave on a peninsula formed where Spring Creek makes a sharp bend before it enters Owl Creek. A picture of this grave and the story, "A Pioneer Tragedy" appeared in Vol. 1 No. 4, 1968 of IN THE BEGINNING. The picket fence put around the grave at that time has long disappeared, but a new pipe fence has also been put around this grave by the Gordon's who also own this land.

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Soon after the close of the Civil War a caravan of wagons arrived along North Owl Creek from around Kirkesville, Mo. Among this group was Hiram Cook and his wife Jane. Other were John C. Allen and wife Margaret, Thomas Blanchard and his wife Sarah, George Blanchard, the Murphy's who were relatives of Mrs. Allen. Thomas Arnold, a relative of some of the group was already here, evidently coming about 1857.

Thomas P. Arnold evidently came to Belmont first, where he ran a tavern in the log town of Belmont. In 1860 he was living over in the Verdigris Valley. He was a native of Kentucky. His wife name was Sarah. They had three children: Martha, James and William. When Arnold joined the Militia at Belmont he signed as T.P. Arnold.

In 1861, Arnold was named in the first divorce case in Woodson Co. All of the people mentioned in this divorce case were residents of the Verdigris area now covered by the Toronto Reservoir. In the 1860's Arnold purchased some land on Owl Creek, a mile and quarter north and a quarter mile west of Yates Center. Here he lived in a log cabin.

In December, 1869, John S. Gilmore, an early day newspaper publisher of Wilson County, while making a trip by horseback from Guilford to Emporia wrote in his diary. Guilford was a frontier town on the Verdigris River below Benedicht.

"Traveled seven miles and stopped at a farmhouse near Buffalo Creek to warm my chilled frame. Was told here that instead of going by Belmont to incline farther east and follow the road leading to Chellis. Proceeded up Buffalo Creek on the east side . . . . five or six miles further up and above all timber, I crossed the creek and continued over the snow covered hills . . . . soon after crossed a small creek with a few straggling trees on its banks . . . . reached the south branch of Owl Creek . . . . This is quite a stream with considerable timber and good bottom land in its valley . . . . situated on an elevated site and commanding an extended view of the surrounding country., is the young town of Chellis. The first house was built last April and it now contains 20 or more. Rode on over the hills to Burlington, and halted on Owl Creek, three miles from Chellis, half an hour before sunset, at the house of Mr. Arnold, who accomodated travelers. This is the main branch of Owl Creek, a stream that drains a large tract of country between the Verdigris and Neosho. It is the only stream that traverses Woodson County any great distance. It is thickly settled and has good timber. Woodson is one of the poorest counties in the state having but little timber compared with the amount of prairie land. Mr. Arnold was a jocular and cheerful elderly man and the evening was passed pleasantly. He took the most delight in singing hymns of the camp meeting kind — but probably because this was Sunday evening. After he had sung himself hoarse we retired to bed. I traveled only 20 miles today". Thomas Arnold's claim and cabin was across the creek and about a quarter mile north of the Albert Krueger home. Arnold was also a justice of peace in his community.

Somewhere near the center of section 3-25-15, near the cabin of Thomas Arnold is an unmarked and unknown grave of a small Indain boy who was killed nearby when his pony ran through some timber with the boy striking his head on a low hanging limb. And somewhere to the east and a little south of this possibly a hundred and fifty yards from the present highway in an unmarked and unknown grave of an Indian Chief.

In the above writting by John S. Gilmore he stated that Mr. Arnold was a "cheerful elderly man". Records show that he was only 39 years old. The 1860 census listed Thomas P. Arnold as 29 years old and having a wife and three children. The 1870 census listed Thomas P. Arnold as 29 years old and having a wife and three children. The 1870 census listed him as 39 years old and no family was mentioned. Perhaps the scandal mentioned while he was living in the Verdigris Valley had something to do with him living alone. Also in 1870 he was listed as a "dealer in dry goods and other".

The scandal and first divorce case in Woodson County as mentioned above covered an area between Belmont and the Verdigris River, and included several families.in the area — some that were among the more prominent.

We never learned what became of T.P. Arnold, but believe he deserved a mention in Woodson County History.

The John C. Allen's had six children; Sarah, wife of Thomas Blanchard, Elizabeth Ann, who married Henry Cook, Greenup Allen father of John Allen, who was one of the postmasters of Yates Center; William Allen, Cynthia, who married Daniel Cannady, and Robert L. Allen, known to many as Uncle Bobby.

The John C. Allens settled on what is now the Albert Krueger farm. Mr. Allen had returned from the Civil War as Captain Allen and by that title he was known. As a result of a wound he lost a leg during the war, and used a peg-leg the rest of his life. His brother Robert L. Allen was in the same outfit with his during the war. While he was known as Captain Allen his army pension dated June 18, 1867 listed him as 1st Lieut., Co. B 22nd Mo. Volunteers. However, on a plain page of tablet paper evidently in Allen's handwriting indicates that he may have been in another outfit listed as E.M.M. of 50th Reg., which was evidently Missouri Militia. He may have been Captain of this group as the paper mentioned shows several recruits being paid on April 1, 1863. Robert L. Allen was paid for "Old Services in E.M.M." A William Blanchard was paid for services on July 1, 1863. These papers have been kept in the Cook family.

On top of the hill near his home on the south side of Owl Creek Capt. Allen set a large pole in the ground, which was used as a flag pole where he could fly Old Glory where it could be seen for miles around.

Hiram Cook and wife Jane, were natives of Ohio, but moved from there into Kentucky and then into Missouri. In 1865 they came with a wagon train to Woodson County from Kirkesville, Mo. With them came five children: Thomas A., Mary, Jennie, Franklin and Jane. Their oldest son Henry A. had preceded them to Woodson County.

Hiram Cook homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 35-25-15. Their log cabin was on the north slope of a hill overlooking the valley of North Owl Creek. (This cabin was located where the home of E.J. Gordon is, just to the north of the Blackjack Cattle Co. feedlots). Here two more children were born, Margaret and Emma.

At the foot of the hill from the cabin was located a small plot of land jutted out into a peninsula could be plainly from the cabin. The mother Jane Cook had made the remark that when she died she wanted to be buried in this small plot of land, which was about a hundred yards from the cabin. In the latter part of 1870, Jane Cook died and her wish was fulfilled as she was buried in the small plot, that in later years become the burying place for more members of the family. What became of Hiram Cook and the rest of his family we never learned. No stone marks her grave.

**continued in next issue**

FIRST NEWSPAPER IN WOODSON COUNTY –

The first newspaper press that made its way into Woodson County was evidently one of the first to be sent to Kansas. This particular press was an old hand-set Washington press that had been sent to Leavenworth for Free-State purposes.

In the days before the Civil War the eastern part of Kansas was known as "Bloody Kansas", because of the border warfare between the Free-State settlers coming here from the east and north part of the United States and the pro-slavery settlers from the south, but mostly from Missouri.

The next move of the old press was to Lawrence, Kans., for Free-State literature, that was distributed around Lawrence.

In 1864 the old press was moved to Burlington, where the Kansas Patriot was founded, with S.S. Prouty as editor. Three years later the press was sold as the name of the paper changed to the Burlington Patriot.

Two brothers, William and John Higgans, purchased the old press. As there was no newspaper at LeRoy the Higgans Brothers were induced by a considerable bonus to move the press to LeRoy and establish a newspaper there. The first number of the LeRoy Pioneer came off the old press on October 20, 1866, with Wm. J. Kent and Wm. Higgans as the head of it. John Higgans did not get into the business with his brother until Oct. 14, 1867.

Seeing the rival town a few miles up the Neosho River with a newspaper, caused an ambitious group in Neosho Falls to want a newspaper as their town was now over ten years old, and never had a newspaper.

In 1868, several of the leading citizens of the town, N.S. Goss, Isaac Dow, the two men who founded the town; W.W.P. McConnell and others made up a syndicate and purchased the printing press from the Higgans Brothers and prepared to move it to Neosho Falls. However, it was not that easy as the citizens of LeRoy did not relish the idea, although the Higgans' had suspended publication of the "Pioneer" in May of that year. The people of LeRoy intervened and refused to let the press leave the town.

One night a group of Neosho Falls boosters went under cover of darkness with a team and wagon up the river to LeRoy, loaded the press and type and moved it to Neosho Falls. Alex Stewart, an early day citizen of Neosho Falls and later Yates Center and one time sheriff of this county was one of the men who helped "capture" the press and type, and move it to the Falls. However, upon arrival with the press it was discovered that the platen, a flat metal plate that was used to press the paper against the inked type was missing. It took a bonus or bribe of $20 to obtain it from a man named E. Robinson, who knew where it was hidden.

The town of LeRoy brought suit for the return of the press and type. The suit or suits lasted until the District Court of November, 1869 at the then county seat of Neosho Falls. The courtroom was upstairs in an old two story frame building, located on the east side of Main Street. Access to the courtroom was from some rickety outside stairs.

Judge John R. Goodin was the presiding judge and the suit was one entitled – The Town of LeRoy against W.W.P. McConnell and N.S. Goss. Col. W.A. Johnson of Garnett was attorney for the plaintiff and Judge R.M. Ruggles for the defendents. The trial resulted in favor of the defendents, the case was then taken to the Supreme Court, but this Court upheld the judgement of the trial court. The local attorneys present at the District Court were: C.B. Graves, W.H. Slavens, W.E. Grove, Peter Bell, and W.A. Atchinson.

The Neosho Falls syndicate did not wait for the court's decision, but in October, 1869, the first issue of the Frontier Democrat came of the press. J.B. Boyle was the first Editor. The name of Frontier Democrat did not remain long as of January 1870, the paper was sold to Wm. H. Slavens, who changed the name of the publication to the Neosho Falls Advertiser. Three years later, 1873 the paper was sold to W.W. Sain and Isaac Dow, who changed the name to The Woodson County Post. In 1883, the name was changed to The Neosho Falls Post by the new editor, W.L. Challis. In 1887, the name was changed to the Post – J.N. Stout, editor. And in 1891 it was again named The Neosho Falls Post. The old Washington press was used continuously until May 18, 1899, when a large fire broke out in Neosho Falls, destroying the old printing press and accessories.

Neosho

VOLUME II. NEOSHO FALLS, WOODSON

Neosho Falls Advertiser.

THURSDAY, NOV. 9. 1871.

Attorney at Law,

Attorneys at Law,

Attorney at Law,

Attorney at Law,

Attorney.

Mason & Plasterer,

Located at Leah

Confectionery,

Neosho Falls, Kansas.

Will. A. Alexander,

School Furnishers,

**Front page of the Advertiser, 1871**

A FAMILY GATHERING ON BIG SANDY –

For many years the area along the various branches of Big Sandy Creek was rather heavily populated. Most eighty acres of land would support a good family. And many families would live on a forty acre farm. In the area we are writing about along the Woodson–Wilson county line, many of these families were related, including several of the Daniel families. In the picture shown here the old Daniel log cabin in the edge of Wilson is the background for the different families.

Pictured standing, left to right: Anna Daniel (Mrs. Irwin Brown), Lena Brown, Eva Kerley (Mrs. Arthur Daniel), Phebe Hodson Daniel (Mrs. Jasper Daniel), Jesse Clement, Clarence Daniel, Rebecca Ellen (Mrs. George D. Daniel), George Daniel, Jasper Daniel, Child is Bruce Daniel, Mary (Mrs. Hooker Daniel), Otis Daniel, Charles Daniel, Bill Bowman; Seated in middle row are: John E. Daniel, wife, Rebecca Daniel, Hugh Grider, child is Merrill Grider, Arthur Daniel, Ollie Daniel Grider, Ann (Mrs. Bill Bowman), child is Merle Bowman; Front row: Ben Brown, Jane Daniel Brown, Esca Grider (Mrs. G.H. Tandy) Elva Bowman, Alice Daniel (Mrs. Ernest Darland), Inez Grider (Mrs. Carl Davis), Don Grider, Ortha Daniel (Mrs. Warren Swilley), Clyde Daniel, Orlan Bowman, Doster Daniel, and Hooker Daniel.

This picture was taken in the summer of 1905. There are several families in this group, but most all are related in some way. For many years the several different families of Daniel were prominent in the Big Sandy area. And also like many other areas the name of a prominent family has completely disappeared. We will mention one family here and that is the family

of Andrew Daniel. He had four sons and one daughter. The daughter was Mrs. Jane Brown in the picture. Sons were Spencer, Nathan, Lloyd and Josiah. Josiah was the builder of the well-known Daniel log cabin pictured here. Lloyd and Nathan were both members of Co. E. Nineth Regiment Vol. Calvary, organized at Iola, 1862.

* * * * *

THE FITZMORRIS FAMILIES –

Another family who came to the Owl Creek vicinity along where the waters of South Owl, Cherry and Plum Creek's all merge into the main Owl Creek, were the Fitzmorris family who came to Woodson County in 1858.

It is thought that this family may have known the Thomas and Johanna Collins before coming here as both families came from County Kerry, Ireland, and both families lived near New York City, but information along that line is very meager from both families. The Fitzmorris and Collins families settled less than a mile apart in the Owl Creek vicinity.

Thomas Fitzmaurice (The spelling of the name changed after coming to America) and Margaret Kearney, were the parents of six sons and two daughters, one daughter dieing in infancy. They were all born in County Kerry, Ireland.

Two of the brothers, possibly the two oldest, Patrick and Thomas, came to America first. The rest of the family came to America in 1851 and settled near New York City.

The mother passed away and was buried near Elmira, N.Y. in 1858. Thomas Fitzmorris and family, Patrick, Dennis, Morris Michael, and Hannah, came to Woodson County, while the son Thomas went on to Colorado and Jim settled near Pleasanton, Kansas.

As mentioned the Fitzmorris family settled about a mile from the Collins homestead, and near the John Coleman home. Coleman was allegedly killed by vigilantes in 1858, the year that the Fitzmorris' came here. Coleman's widow, Amanda sold some of her claims to them and gave mortgages on other land.

It is sometimes rather confusing to try and locate just where some of these first settlers located claims they first staked out and did not file on until after 1860. The first recorded deeds in Woodson County were in October, 1860. In June 1861, Dennis Fitzmorris, received a patent for the southwest quarter of section 20, Twp. 25, R. 17. This was the claim that Frederick Coleman had staked out in 1856. Main Owl Creek goes through the south end of this quarter. Two years later Dennis sold an undivided half interest of this quarter to his brother, Patrick. In 1864, William P. Henley sold to Patrick, the 80 acres joining on the east of the quarter. Patrick in turn sold this 80 acres to his brother Dennis. And on the same day, January 6, 1866, Dennis sold his 240 acres to his brother Morris Fitzmorris. Morris had homesteaded 80 acres of what has been known for many

years as the Leo Collins home. The 240 acres that Morris had bought was sold the next year, 1867 to Christian Pribbernow, and remained in the Pribbernow family for about 103 years.

The Fitzmorris family left the Owl Creek vicinity around 1866-67. We will take up a little about this family during the time they lived in Woodson County, but mostly about Patrick and Dennis.

Patrick Fitzmorris was married to Miss Bridget Lee, at Humboldt in June, 1873. Bridget had evidently came to Woodson County with her parents Patrick and Margaret Lee, in 1858. They were relatives of Robert E. Lee of Virginia. The Patrick Lee family settled on the Verdigris River in the edge of Wilson County, northeast of Coyville. However, Patrick and Margaret Lee are both buried in the northwest corner of the Owl Creek Catholic Cemetery. Patrick died in 1860 and Margaret in 1870. Patrick's death came several years before the St. Mary's Cemetery was started so evidently he was first buried somewhere else as were Thomas Collins and others who were buried in the little cemetery along the east bank of Cherry Creek about a mile and half east of the St. Mary's Church site and cemetery.

Patrick and Bridget Fitzmorris settled on the Verdigris River four miles northeast of Coyville. They had four sons and one daughter. One son, Will was married to Miss Fannie Henley from the Big Sandy vicinity in Woodson County.

Morris Fitzpatrick served in the Civil War. Whether he served with the group from Woodson County we never learned.

Dennis Fitzmorris seemed to be the first to acquire land along Owl Creek. He also seemed to be the rover of the group. While living here he made several trips by horseback to the Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. In these trips he rode through the Fall River Valley near where New Albany is. He thought this such a beautiful valley that he decided to come here later. He also told of going on a buffalo hunt near where Wichita now stands in 1860, finding only one cabin there at that time. During the Civil War, Dennis went to Lawrence where he worked in a sutlers office. In 1866 he was married to Miss Sarah Donahue, at Lawrence. This was also the year that he sold his claim along Owl Creek and moved to Wilson County. Dennis established a trading post with the Indians along Fall River for two years, while breaking sod for his farm, all river bottom land between Fredonia and New Albany. The house he built in 1870 is still occupied. He had eight children. One son Frank was married to Jessie L. Morton. They had a son Morton. His widow Mrs. Martha Fitzmorris still lives on the farm. She is a very active member of the Wilson County Historical Society.

The vicinity in which the Fitzmorris' homesteaded and were pioneers in the starting of Woodson County was nine miles east and a mile and half south of Yates Center, and we believe that their log cabin was on the south side of road to the east of that corner, overlooking the Owl Creek Valley. Most of the quarter section on which they lived would be under water whenever Owl Creek flooded.

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